Australian Bureau of Statistics

6202.0 - Labour Force, Australia, Aug 2004

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 09/09/2004

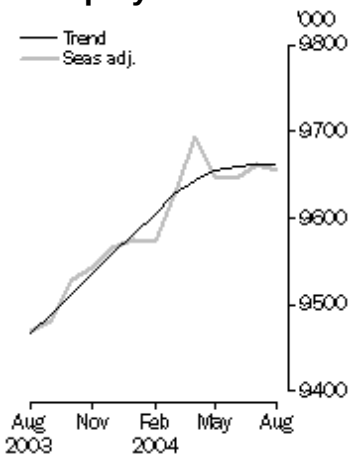
Summary

Main Features

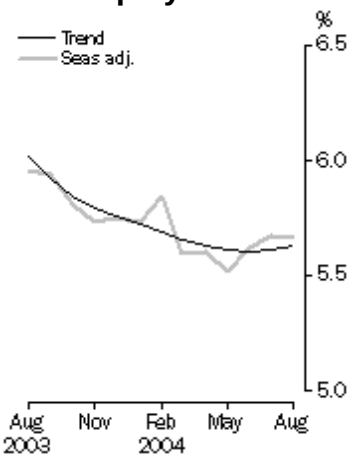
AUGUST KEY FIGURES

	Jul 2004	Aug 2004	Jul 04 to Aug 04	Aug 03 to Aug 04
Trend				
Employed persons ('000)	9,663.2	9,663.6	0.5	2.1%
Unemployed persons ('000)	575.2	576.4	1.2	-4.9%
Unemployment rate (%)	5.6	5.6	0.0pts	-0.4pts
Participation rate (%)	63.5	63.5	-0.1pts	0.1pts
Seasonally Adjusted				
Employed persons ('000)	9,661.4	9,654.7	-6.6	2.0%
Unemployed persons ('000)	581.1	580.5	-0.6	-3.3%
Unemployment rate (%)	5.7	5.7	0.0pts	-0.3pts
Participation rate (%)	63.5	63.4	-0.1pts	0.0pts

Employed Persons



Unemployment rate



AUGUST KEY POINTS

TREND ESTIMATES (MONTHLY CHANGE)

- EMPLOYMENT increased to 9,663,600
- UNEMPLOYMENT increased to 576,400
- UNEMPLOYMENT RATE remained at 5.6%
- PARTICIPATION RATE decreased marginally to 63.5%

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES (MONTHLY CHANGE)

EMPLOYMENT

- decreased by 6,600 to 9,654,700. Full-time employment increased by 8,100 to 6,941,300 while part-time employment decreased by 14,800 to 2,713,400

UNEMPLOYMENT

- decreased slightly to 580,500. The number of persons looking for full-time work decreased by 19,000 to 407,500 and the number of persons looking for part-time work increased by 18,400 to 173,000.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

- remained at 5.7%. The male unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point to 5.6% and the female unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point to 5.8%.

PARTICIPATION RATE

- decreased by 0.1 percentage point to 63.4%.

NOTES

CAI IMPLEMENTATION

Since October 2003, the ABS has been progressively implementing computer assisted interviewing (CAI) into the LFS. Under CAI, interviewers record responses directly onto an electronic questionnaire in a laptop computer. This replaces the traditional 'pen and paper' method previously used.

The CAI method was used on a random 10% sub-sample of survey interviews in October 2003. This was increased progressively to 40% between February and April 2004, to 70% in June and 100% in August.

During the implementation period the ABS conducted a range of analyses on each month's data. These analyses confirmed that the change in interview method has not materially affected the aggregate estimates for any month.

SAMPLING ERRORS

The estimates in this publication are based on a sample survey. Because the entire population is not enumerated, the published estimates and the movements derived from them are subject to sampling variability. Standard errors give a measure of this variability and appear on pages 27 and 28.

The 95% confidence intervals below provide another way of looking at the variability inherent in estimates from sample surveys. The interval bounded by the two limits is the 95% confidence interval. A 95% confidence interval has a 95% chance of including the true value of the estimate.

Movements in seasonally adjusted series between July and August 2004

	Monthly change	95% Confidence interval		
Total Employment	-6,600	-43,600	to	30,400
Total Unemployment	-600	-14,000	to	12,800
Unemployment rate	0.0 pts	-0.2 pts	to	0.2 pts
Participation rate	-0.1 pts	-0.3 pts	to	0.1 pts

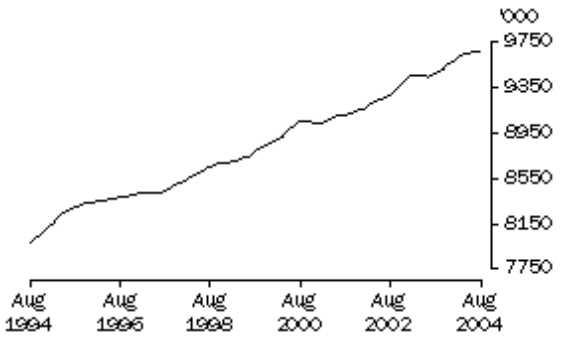
INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Michael Johnson on Canberra (02) 6252 6525.

PRINCIPAL LABOUR FORCE SERIES TREND ESTIMATES

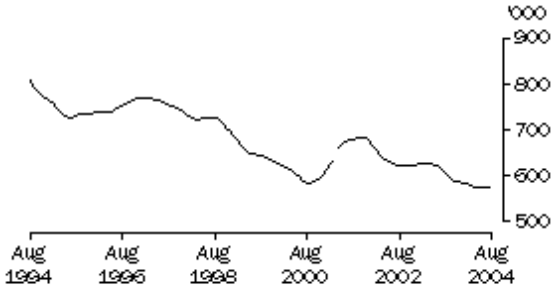
EMPLOYED PERSONS

The trend estimate of employed persons generally rose from a low of 7,637,500 in December 1992 to 9,054,800 in September 2000. The trend estimate then fell slightly to 9,033,700 in January 2001, before rising to 9,464,700 in March 2003. The trend estimate then fell for three months, before rising to stand at 9,663,600 in August 2004.



UNEMPLOYED PERSONS

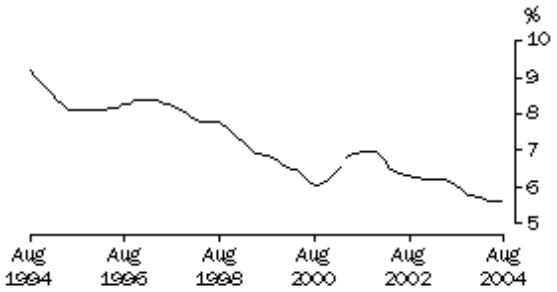
The trend estimate of unemployed persons fell rapidly from 920,700 in September 1993 to 728,100 in July 1995. The trend estimate then rose to 771,700 in February 1997, before falling to 583,600 in September 2000. After rising to 685,300 in October 2001, the trend estimate has generally fallen to stand at 576,400 in August 2004.



Series break at April 2001; see paragraph 12 of Explanatory Notes.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The trend unemployment rate fell rapidly from 10.7% in August 1993 to 8.1% in July 1995. The trend estimate then rose slowly, reaching 8.4% in February 1997, before falling to 6.1% in September 2000. After rising to 7.0% in October 2001, the trend estimate has since fallen to stand at 5.6% in August 2004.



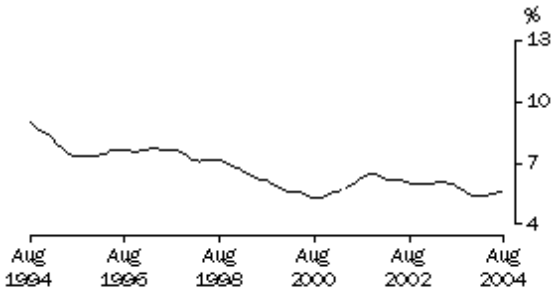
Series break at April 2001; see paragraph 12 of Explanatory Notes.

STATES TREND ESTIMATES

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

NEW SOUTH WALES

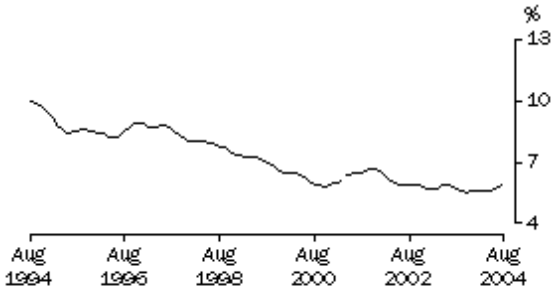
The trend unemployment rate for New South Wales fell steadily from 10.7% in January 1993 to 7.4% in August 1995. The trend then rose gradually, reaching 7.7% in April 1997, before falling to 5.3% in September 2000. The trend rate then rose to 6.4% in October 2001, before generally falling to 5.4% in February 2004. The trend has risen over the last six months to stand at 5.6% in August 2004.



Series break at April 2001; see paragraph 12 of Explanatory Notes.

VICTORIA

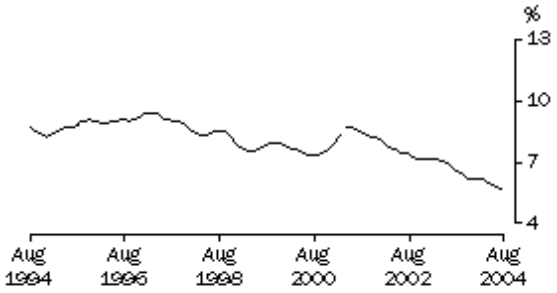
The trend estimate of the unemployment rate for Victoria decreased from a peak of 12.1% in August 1993 to 8.2% in May 1996. The trend then rose until November 1996, before falling steadily to 5.8% in October 2000. The trend then rose to 6.7% in November 2001, before generally decreasing to 5.5% in November 2003. The trend has since risen and stands at 5.9% in August 2004.



Series break at April 2001; see paragraph 12 of Explanatory Notes.

QUEENSLAND

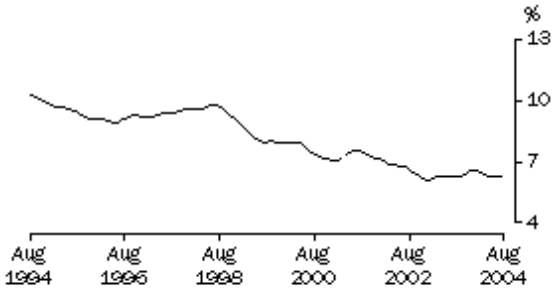
The trend estimate of the unemployment rate for Queensland increased from 8.3% in December 1994 to 9.5% in February 1997. The trend then generally fell to 7.3% in August 2000, before rising to 8.7% in May 2001. Over the last three years the trend rate has fallen to stand at 5.6% in August 2004.



Series break at April 2001; see paragraph 12 of Explanatory Notes.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

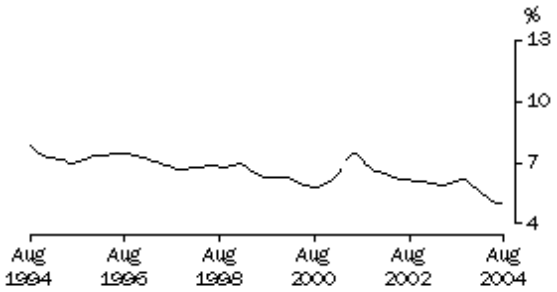
The trend unemployment rate for South Australia decreased from 11.6% in June 1992 to 8.9% in June 1996. The trend then rose slowly to 9.8% in July 1998 before generally falling to 7.1% in January 2001. The trend rate rose to 7.6% in July 2001 before falling to 6.1% in January 2003. The trend then gradually rose to 6.6% in December 2003 before falling to stand at 6.2% in August 2004.



Series break at April 2001; see paragraph 12 of Explanatory Notes.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

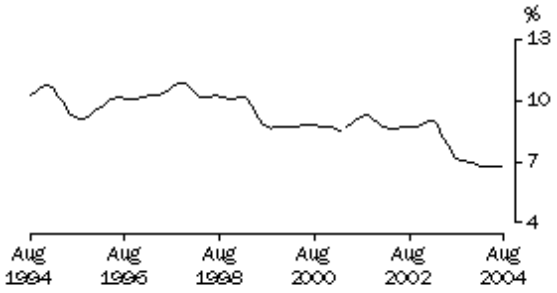
The trend estimate of the unemployment rate for Western Australia rose from 7.0% in July 1995 to 7.5% in July 1996 before generally falling to 5.8% in August 2000. The trend then rose sharply to 7.4% in June 2001. Since then the trend has generally fallen to stand at 4.9% in August 2004.



Series break at April 2001; see paragraph 12 of Explanatory Notes.

TASMANIA

The trend estimate of the unemployment rate for Tasmania fell from a peak of 12.5% in August 1993 to 9.1% in September 1995. After rising to 10.9% in October 1997, the trend generally fell to 8.7% in September 1999. The trend estimate remained relatively steady until February 2003, before falling sharply for the next six months. The decrease in the trend rate has slowed over the last year, and stands at 6.7% in August 2004.



Series break at April 2001; see paragraph 12 of Explanatory Notes.

About this Release

ABOUT THIS RELEASE

Summary results of the monthly Labour Force Survey containing estimates of employed and unemployed persons classified by sex, full-time/part-time status, states and territories and some age groups; and persons not in the labour force.

6202.0 was published as Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary until March 2003. As the publication had provided final summary data for a number of years to that point, the misleading qualification preliminary was removed from the April 2003 issue onwards.

Explanatory Notes

Explanatory Notes

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains estimates of the civilian labour force derived from the Labour Force Survey component of the Monthly Population Survey. The full time series for estimates from this publication are also available electronically - see **Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets (cat. no. 6202.0.55.001).** More detailed estimates are released one week after this publication in various electronic formats - see **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery** (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001).

CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

2 The conceptual framework used in Australia’s Labour Force Survey aligns closely with the standards and guidelines set out in Resolutions of International Conferences of Labour Statisticians. Descriptions of the underlying concepts and structure of Australia's labour force statistics, and the sources and methods used in compiling the estimates, are presented in **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0) which is available on the ABS web site <https://www.abs.gov.au> (About Statistics - Concepts and Classifications).

MONTHLY POPULATION SURVEY

3 The population survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (currently about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.) and a list sample of non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.), and covers about 0.45% of the population of Australia. The information is obtained from the occupants of selected dwellings by specially trained interviewers. The information obtained relates to the week before the interview (i.e. the reference week).

4 Households selected for the Labour Force Survey are interviewed each month for 8 months, with one eighth of the sample being replaced each month. The first interview is conducted face-to-face. Subsequent interviews are conducted by telephone (if acceptable to the respondent).

5 The interviews are generally conducted during the two weeks beginning on the Monday between the 6th and 12th of each month. Each year, to deal with operational difficulties involved with collecting and processing the Labour Force Survey around the Christmas and New Year holiday period, interviews for December start four weeks after November interviews start, and January interviews start five weeks after December interviews start. As a result, January interviewing may commence as early as the 8th or as late as the 14th, depending on the year. Occasionally, circumstances that present significant operational difficulties for survey collection can result in a change to the normal pattern for the start of interviewing.

6 Estimates from the Labour Force Survey are published first in this publication 31 days after the commencement of interviews for that month, with the exception of estimates for each December which are published 38 days after the commencement of interviews.

SCOPE OF SURVEY

7 The Labour Force Survey includes all persons aged 15 years and over except members of the permanent defence forces, certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments customarily excluded from census and estimated population counts, overseas residents in Australia, and members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

COVERAGE

8 In the Labour Force Survey, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection. The coverage rules are necessarily a balance between theoretical and operational considerations. Nevertheless, the chance of a person being enumerated at two separate dwellings in the survey is considered to be negligible.

POPULATION BENCHMARKS

9 Labour Force Survey estimates are calculated in such a way as to add up to independent estimates of the civilian population aged 15 and over (population benchmarks). From February 2004, labour force estimates have been compiled using benchmarks based on the results of the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. Revisions were made to historical estimates from January 1999 to January 2004.

COMPARABILITY OF SERIES

10 From April 1986, the definition of employed persons was changed to include persons who worked without pay between 1 and 14 hours per week in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers). For further information, see paragraphs 36 and 37 of the Explanatory Notes to the February 1987 issue of **Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6203.0**).

11 The ABS introduced telephone interviewing into the Labour Force Survey in August 1996. Implementation was phased in for each new sample group from August 1996 to February 1997. During the period of implementation, the new method produced different estimates than would have been obtained under the old methodology. The effect dissipated over the final months of implementation and was no longer discernible from February 1997. The estimates for February 1997 and onwards are directly comparable to estimates for periods prior to August 1996. For further details, see the feature article in the June 1997 issue of **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6203.0).

12 From April 2001 the Labour Force Survey has been conducted using a redesigned questionnaire containing additional data items and some minor definitional changes. The definition of unemployed persons was changed to include all persons who were waiting to start work and were available to start in the reference week. This change was introduced in February 2004, when historical unit record data were revised from April 2001 to January 2004. This revision created a small trend break at April 2001 in unemployed persons and unemployment rate series. For further details, see **Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics** (cat. no. 6292.0).

13 Core labour force series were revised in April 2001 for the period April 1986 to March 2001 for the remaining definitional changes introduced with the redesigned questionnaire, to reduce the impact of the changes on labour force series. For further details, see **Information Paper: Implementing the Redesigned Labour Force Survey Questionnaire** (cat. no. 6295.0) and **Information Paper: Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey (cat. no. 6232.0)**.

SURVEY SAMPLE REDESIGN

14 The Labour Force Survey sample was last reselected using information collected in the 2001 Census of Population and Housing.

15 The bulk of the new sample was phased in over the period November 2002 to June 2003, with one eighth of this portion of the sample being introduced every month. The remainder of the sample (about 18% of the total), which covers less settled areas of Australia and non-private dwellings was rotated in full for New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory in November 2002, and for Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia in December 2002. Such a pattern of implementation means that any changes to labour force estimates due to differences between the two samples, or any other influences, were spread over the eight months.

16 For further details, see **Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design (cat. no. 6269.0)** and **Technical Report: New Labour Force Survey sample selections: analysis of the effect on estimates** in the October 2003 issue of **Australian Labour Market Statistics** (cat. no. 6105.0).

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

17 Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: sampling error and non-sampling error.

Sampling error occurs because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all dwellings in the survey is given by the standard error. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. Standard errors of estimates for the latest month and of estimates of movements since the previous month are shown on pages 27 and 28. Standard errors of other estimates and other movements may be determined by using information in **Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Standard Errors** (cat. no. 6298.0) which is available free on the ABS web site <https://www.abs.gov.au> (About Statistics - Information Papers).
Non sampling error arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures.

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT AND TREND ESTIMATION

18 Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove the irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month. This means that month-to-month movements of the seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour.

19 The Labour Force Survey uses the concurrent seasonal adjustment method to derive seasonal factors. Concurrent seasonal adjustment uses data up to the current month to estimate seasonal factors for the current and all previous months. This process can result in revisions each month to estimates for earlier periods. However, in most instances, the only noticeable revisions will be to the seasonally adjusted estimates for the previous month and one year prior to the current month.

20 Seasonal adjustment is able to remove the effect of events which occur at the same time in the survey every year. However, there are some events, like holidays, which are not always at the same time in the survey cycle or which are not at the same time across Australia. The effects of these types of events on LFS estimates cannot in all cases be removed, because the pattern of their effects cannot be determined. However, two events which are adjusted for in the seasonally adjusted series are the January interview start date and the timing of Easter.

21 For more information on concurrent seasonal adjustment and survey proximity to holiday periods, see **Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics** (cat. no. 6292.0).

22 While seasonal factors for the complete time series are estimated each month, they will continue to be reviewed annually at a more detailed level to take into account each additional year's original data. This annual review will not normally result in significant changes to published estimates. The review will be conducted in February each year with the results released in the February issue of this publication.

23 The smoothing of seasonally adjusted series to produce 'trend' series reduces the impact of the irregular component of the seasonally adjusted series. These trend estimates are derived by applying a 13-term Henderson-weighted moving average to all months except the last six. The last six monthly trend estimates are obtained by applying surrogates of the Henderson average to the seasonally adjusted series. Trend estimates are used to analyse the underlying behaviour of a series over time.

24 While this smoothing technique enables estimates to be produced for the latest month, it does result in revisions in addition to those caused by the revision of seasonally adjusted estimates. Generally, revisions due to the use of surrogates of the Henderson average become smaller, and after 3 months have a negligible impact on the series.

25 Trend estimates are published for the Northern Territory in table 10 and for the Australian Capital Territory in table 11. Unadjusted series for the two territories have shown, historically, a high degree of variability, which can lead to considerable revisions to the seasonally adjusted estimates each month when seasonal factors are estimated. For this reason, seasonally adjusted estimates are not currently published for the two Territories. In addition, caution should be exercised in the interpretation of trend estimates for the two territories, particularly for the three most recent months, where revisions may be relatively large.

26 For further information, see **A Guide to Interpreting Time Series - Monitoring 'Trends': an Overview** (cat. no. 1348.0) or contact the Assistant Director, Time Series Analysis on (02) 6252 6345.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

27 Users may also wish to refer to **Australian Labour Market Statistics** (cat. no. 6105.0). This publication contains additional tables and a detailed list of related publications. For further information about this publication, please contact the Assistant Director, Labour Market Statistics on (02) 6252 7636.

28 ABS Information about the labour market can be found on the Labour theme page on the ABS web site <http:// www.abs.gov.au>(Themes - People, Labour), or from ABS Bookshops.

29 Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed in the **Catalogue of Publications and Products (cat. no. 1101.0)**. The Catalogue is available from any ABS office or the ABS web site <https://www.abs.gov.au> (Products and Services). The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site (Information on Releases) which details products to be released in the week ahead.

DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

30 As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant data available. Inquiries should be made to Michael Johnson on (02) 6252 6525 or to any ABS office.

EFFECTS OF ROUNDING

31 Estimates have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

32 Estimates of movement shown in this publication are obtained by taking the difference of unrounded estimates. The movement estimate is then rounded to one decimal place. Therefore where a discrepancy occurs between the reported movement and the difference of the rounded estimates, the reported movement will be more accurate.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

33 SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

pts percentage points

Glossary

Actively looking for work

Includes writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work; answering an advertisement for a job; checking factory noticeboards or the touchscreens at the Centrelink offices; being registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker; checking or registering with any other employment agency; advertising or tendering for work; and contacting friends or relatives.

Attending full-time education

Persons aged 15 to 24 years enrolled at secondary or high school or enrolled as a full time student at a Technical and Further Education (TAFE) college, university, or other educational institution in the reference week.

Attending school

Persons aged 15 to 19 years enrolled at secondary or high school in the reference week.

Attending tertiary educational institution full time

Persons aged 15 to 24 years enrolled full time at a TAFE college, university, or other educational institution in the reference week, except those persons aged 15 to 19 years who were still attending school.

Civilian population aged 15 years and over

All usual residents of Australia aged 15 years and over except members of the permanent defence forces, certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments customarily excluded from census and estimated population counts, overseas residents in Australia, and members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

Employed

All persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
    - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
    - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or
    - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
    - on strike or locked out; or
    - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers, who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Employment to population ratio

For any group, the number of employed persons expressed as a percentage of the civilian population in the same group.

Full-time workers

Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

Labour force

For any group, persons who were employed or unemployed, as defined.

Labour force status

A classification of the civilian population aged 15 years and over into employed, unemployed

or not in the labour force, as defined. The definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions adopted by the International Conferences of Labour Statisticians.

Not in labour force

Persons who were not in the categories employed or unemployed as defined.

Participation rate

For any group, the labour force expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group.

Part-time workers

Employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

Seasonally adjusted series

A time series of estimates with the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation removed. See Explanatory Notes 18 to 22 for more detail.

Trend series

A smoothed seasonally adjusted series of estimates. See Explanatory Notes 23 to 25 for more detail.

Unemployed

Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Unemployed looking for full-time work

Unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for full-time work; or
- were waiting to start a new full-time job.

Unemployed looking for part-time work

Unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for part-time work only; or
- were waiting to start a new part-time job.

Unemployment rate

For any group, the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.

Unemployment to population ratio

For any group, the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the civilian population in the same group.

What If

WHAT IF...? REVISIONS TO TREND ESTIMATES

EFFECT OF NEW SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES ON TREND ESTIMATES

TREND REVISIONS

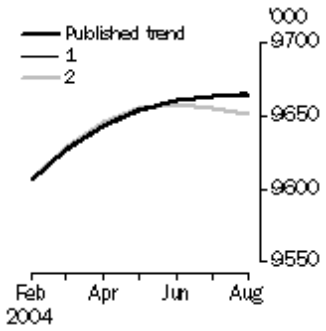
Each time new seasonally adjusted estimates become available, trend estimates are revised. This revision is a combined result of the concurrent seasonal adjustment process and the application of surrogates of the Henderson average to the seasonally adjusted series (see paragraphs 18 to 24 of Explanatory Notes).

The examples in the tables below show two illustrative scenarios and the consequent revisions to previous trend estimates of employment and the unemployment rate. The revisions in the scenarios below are only due to the use of surrogates of the Henderson average, as the impact of revision of the seasonally adjusted estimates can not be estimated in advance.

1. The September seasonally adjusted estimate is **higher** than the August estimate by:
   0.27% for employment
   1.80% for the unemployment rate
2. The September seasonally adjusted estimate is **lower** than the August estimate by:
   0.27% for employment
   1.80% for the unemployment rate

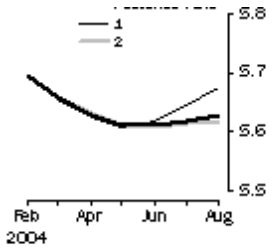
The percentage changes of 0.27% and 1.80% were chosen because they represent the average absolute monthly percentage changes in employment and the unemployment rate respectively.

Employment



		WHAT IF NEXT MONTH'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATE IS:	
	Trend as published	**(1) 9680.8 i.e. rises by 0.27%**	**(2) 9628.7 i.e. falls by 0.27%**
2004			
May	9,654.4	9,654.5	9,655.4
June	9,660.4	9,660.2	9,657.9
July	9,663.2	9,663.4	9,655.7
August	9,663.6	9,666.2	9,651.7

Unemployment Rate



		WHAT IF NEXT MONTH'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATE IS:	
	Trend as published	**(1) 5.8 i.e. rises by 1.80%**	**(2) 5.6 i.e. falls by 1.80%**
2004			
May	5.6	5.6	5.6
June	5.6	5.6	5.6
July	5.6	5.6	5.6
August	5.6	5.7	5.6

Technical Note

STANDARD ERRORS

The estimates in this publication are based on information gained from the occupants of a sample survey of dwellings. Because the entire population is not surveyed, the published estimates are subject to sampling error. The most common way of quantifying such sampling error is to calculate the standard error for the published estimate or statistic. For more information, see paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Notes.

LEVEL ESTIMATES

To illustrate, let us say the published level estimate for employed persons aged 15 to 19 is 700,000. The calculated standard error in this case is 9,800. The standard error is then used to interpret the level estimate of 700,000. For instance, the standard error of 9,800 indicates

that:

- There are approximately two chances in three that the real value falls within the range 690,200 to 709,800 (700,000 + or - 9,800)
- There are approximately nineteen chances in twenty that the real value falls within the range 680,400 to 719,600 (700,000 + or - 19,600).

The real value in this case is the result we would obtain if we could enumerate the total population.

The following table shows the standard errors for this month's level estimates.

										AUSTRALIA		
		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Males	Females	Persons
Aged 15 and over												
Employed												
	Full time	'000	18.5	14.1	11.2	5.1	5.5	1.9	1.2	1.8	21.6	16.0	28.8
	Part time	'000	10.8	8.8	7.8	3.7	4.1	1.4	0.8	1.2	10.3	14.9	17.1
	Total	'000	22.6	17.0	12.8	5.9	6.1	2.1	1.4	2.1	23.9	21.0	38.7
Unemployed													
	Looking for f/t work	'000	4.9	4.0	3.5	1.7	1.9	0.7	0.5	0.5	6.5	5.5	7.8
	Looking for p/t work	'000	3.6	3.1	2.5	1.3	1.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	4.0	4.8	5.7
	Total	'000	5.5	4.6	4.0	2.0	2.2	0.8	0.5	0.6	7.1	6.7	9.0
Labour force		'000	23.3	17.7	13.0	6.0	6.2	2.2	1.4	2.1	24.8	21.7	40.8
Not in labour force		'000	17.7	13.1	10.4	5.0	5.2	1.9	1.0	1.4	16.0	19.4	26.1
Unemployment rate													
	Looking for f/t work	pts	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1
	Looking for p/t work	pts	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	1.3	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.2
	Total	pts	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
Participation rate		pts	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6	1.0	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.3
Aged 15 - 19													
Employed													
	Full time	'000	4.1	3.0	3.1	1.3	1.8	0.5	0.3	0.4	5.4	4.4	6.3
	Part time	'000	5.0	4.1	4.0	1.7	2.2	0.7	0.4	0.6	6.0	6.7	8.3
	Total	'000	5.8	4.6	4.7	2.0	2.6	0.8	0.5	0.7	7.4	7.4	9.7
Unemployed													
	Looking for f/t work	'000	2.5	1.6	1.6	0.8	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.2	2.9	2.6	3.7
	Looking for p/t work	'000	2.7	2.3	1.7	0.9	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.3	3.0	3.3	4.2
	Total	'000	3.4	2.6	2.2	1.1	1.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	4.0	4.0	5.1
Labour force		'000	6.1	4.9	5.0	2.2	2.7	0.9	0.6	0.7	7.9	7.9	10.4
Not in labour force		'000	5.9	4.6	4.0	1.9	2.3	0.8	0.5	0.6	7.3	7.0	9.3
Unemployment rate													
	Looking for f/t work	pts	2.9	3.0	2.5	4.1	2.8	4.5	8.9	5.2	1.7	2.5	1.4
	Looking for p/t work	pts	1.8	1.7	1.5	2.2	1.8	2.5	5.1	3.0	1.4	1.1	0.8
	Total	pts	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.9	1.4	2.2	4.4	2.4	1.0	1.0	0.7
Participation rate		pts	1.3	1.5	1.8	2.1	1.9	2.5	3.9	3.0	1.1	1.2	0.7
Unemployment to population ratio - looking for f/t work		pts	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.6	1.0	2.0	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.3

MOVEMENT ESTIMATES

The following example illustrates how to use the standard error to interpret a movement estimate. Let us say that one month the published level estimate for females employed part time in Australia is 1,890,000; the next month the published level estimate is 1,900,000. The calculated standard error for the movement estimate is 10,300. The standard error is then used to interpret the published movement estimate of 10,000. For instance, the standard

error of 10,300 indicates that:

- There are approximately two chances in three that the real movement between the two months falls within the range -300 to 20,300 (10,000 + or - 10,300)
- There are approximately nineteen chances in twenty that the real movement falls within the range -10,600 to 30,600 (10,000 + or - 20,600).

The following table shows the standard errors for this month's movement estimates.

										AUSTRALIA		
		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Males	Females	Persons
Aged 15 and over												
Employed												
	Full time	'000	10.0	7.6	7.0	3.2	3.9	1.3	1.1	1.0	14.2	11.2	16.5
	Part time	'000	7.2	5.6	5.0	2.4	2.9	1.0	0.7	0.7	7.6	10.5	11.8
	Total	'000	11.1	8.5	7.8	3.6	4.4	1.4	1.2	1.1	15.0	13.9	18.5
Unemployed													
	Looking for f/t work	'000	3.8	2.9	2.6	1.2	1.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	5.0	4.3	6.0
	Looking for p/t work	'000	2.7	2.3	1.9	0.9	1.1	0.4	0.3	0.3	3.1	3.7	4.4
	Total	'000	4.2	3.3	2.9	1.4	1.6	0.6	0.4	0.4	5.4	5.1	6.7
Labour force		'000	11.3	8.7	7.9	3.7	4.4	1.5	1.2	1.2	15.3	14.2	18.9
Not in labour force		'000	9.7	7.3	6.5	3.1	3.7	1.3	0.9	0.9	11.2	13.1	15.7
Unemployment rate													
	Looking for f/t work	pts	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1
	Looking for p/t work	pts	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.2
	Total	pts	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Participation rate		pts	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1
Aged 15 - 19													
Employed													
	Full time	'000	3.2	2.2	2.3	1.0	1.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	4.3	3.4	5.0
	Part time	'000	3.9	3.1	2.8	1.2	1.7	0.5	0.3	0.4	4.7	5.2	6.3
	Total	'000	4.5	3.4	3.3	1.4	1.9	0.6	0.4	0.5	5.7	5.7	7.3
Unemployed													
	Looking for f/t work	'000	2.1	1.3	1.3	0.7	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.2	2.4	2.3	3.0
	Looking for p/t work	'000	2.1	1.7	1.4	0.7	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.5	2.6	3.3
	Total	'000	2.5	1.9	1.7	0.9	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	3.1	3.1	3.9
Labour force		'000	4.8	3.6	3.5	1.5	2.0	0.6	0.5	0.5	6.0	6.0	7.7
Not in labour force		'000	4.5	3.4	2.8	1.4	1.7	0.6	0.4	0.4	5.5	5.3	6.9
Unemployment rate													
	Looking for f/t work	pts	2.0	2.4	2.1	2.8	2.4	3.3	7.2	3.8	1.4	2.1	1.0
	Looking for p/t work	pts	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.7	1.5	2.0	4.3	2.4	1.1	0.9	0.6
	Total	pts	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.2	1.7	3.8	1.9	0.8	0.8	0.5
Participation rate		pts	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.8	3.3	2.1	0.9	0.9	0.6
Unemployment to population ratio - looking for f/t work		pts	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.8	1.9	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.2